

New Year - - New Changes

To better serve its customers, the Columbus Center is undergoing a number of organizational changes. The most significant involves splitting its core missions between two co-equal Senior Executive Directors with a third operations support organization. In effect, there will be two DFAS Centers located in Columbus, Ohio. Other recent changes include disestablishing the Plans and Management Directorate and establishing a Strategic Business Office.

Center Restructuring

DFAS Director, Thomas Bloom, made the Center reorganization announcement in late November 1999. The restructuring, implemented January 18, 2000, involved splitting the core missions of the current operation between a DFAS Columbus Center for Accounting and Financial Services (DFAS-CO/T) and a DFAS Columbus Center for Contract Payments (DFAS-CO/J). Mr. John Nabil is the Director for the new Columbus Center for Accounting and Financial Services. This organization will be responsible for accounting, financial services (travel and vendor payments, stock fund entitlements), and disbursing operations. Ms. JoAnn Boutelle is the Director for the new Columbus Center for Contract Payments. This organization will be responsible for contract entitlement (often referred to as MOCAS), electronic commerce, and related operations. Common support functions will be aligned in a separate organization, called DFAS Support Activity Columbus (DFAS-CO/C), headed by Brian Drufke as the Acting Director.

This restructuring will enable the new Centers to foster and maintain a close relationship with their customers and ensure that customers' expectations are being exceeded. This new structure will also allow the Centers to meet the continuing challenge of developing and delivering creative solutions to meet customer needs.

Plans and Management Dissolved

The Plans and Management Directorate, formed in May 1995, was dissolved earlier this month. Each of the Plans and Management functions has been realigned under various organizations within the new Support Activity Columbus. This realignment action more closely aligns Columbus operations with the organizational structure at DFAS Headquarters.

Strategic Business Office Opens

A Strategic Business Office has been established in the new Columbus Center for Contract Payments to oversee major entitlement-related business process and systems changes. Nancy Drew, former Plans and Management Director, will lead the Strategic Business Office. The Defense Procurement Payment System (DPPS) is on the horizon and its impact on Columbus operations will be substantial. While most DFAS Centers employ only one entitlement system, the two Columbus Centers, as a result of their unique missions and varied customers, utilize six. The Strategic Business Office will serve as a transition planning office for the entitlement reengineering efforts affecting the Centers. First among these responsibilities will be the conversion of the Centers' existing entitlement systems to DPPS. DPPS is scheduled to come on line for the first of the Centers' payment systems, the Computerized Accounts Payable System (CAPS), later this year. Over the next several years DPPS will replace the entitlement functions of the following systems which are operational at Columbus: Mechanization of Contract Administration Services (MOCAS), Standard Automated Materiel Management System (SAMMS), Defense Integrated Subsistence Management System (DISMS), Fuels Automated System (FAS), and Standard Automated Voucher Examination System (SAVES). DPPS will also replace the Integrated Accounts Payable System (IAPS), Standard Accounting and Reporting System-One Bill Pay (STARS-OBP), and CAPS systems utilized by other DFAS offices.